

Application No. 10/081,674
Response dated January 22, 2007
Reply to Action of September 18, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (cancelled).

Claim 2 (cancelled).

Claim 3 (cancelled).

Claim 4 (cancelled).

Claim 5 (cancelled).

Claim 6 (cancelled).

Claim 7 (cancelled).

Claim 8 (cancelled).

Claim 9 (cancelled).

Claim 10 (cancelled).

Claim 11 (cancelled).

Claim 12 (cancelled).

Claim 13 (cancelled).

Claim 14 (cancelled).

Claim 15 (cancelled).

Claim 16 (cancelled).

Claim 17 (cancelled).

Application No. 10/081,674
Response dated January 22, 2007
Reply to Action of September 18, 2006

Claim 18 (previously presented). A method of protecting agricultural products, comprising the steps of:

providing at least one piece of nonwoven fabric consisting of spunbond filamentary elements formed from material selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic polymers;

forming a sheet from said nonwoven fabric having a finite length and width;

modifying at least one region of the nonwoven fabric so as to have an altered level of light transmittance by printing on said nonwoven fabric to occlude light transmission therethrough;

joining edge portions of said sheet of said nonwoven fabric to form a seam by at least one of heat-bonding, adhesive bonding, and sewing; and

positioning said protective cover generally about an agricultural product to alter the ripening of the agricultural product prior to harvesting and protecting the product from dust and/or insects.

Claim 19 (cancelled).

Claim 20 (cancelled).

Claim 21 (cancelled).

Claim 22 (cancelled).

Claim 23 (previously presented) A method of protecting agricultural products, comprising the steps of:

providing at least one piece of nonwoven fabric consisting of spunbond filamentary elements formed from material selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic polymers;

Application No. 10/081,674
Response dated January 22, 2007
Reply to Action of September 18, 2006

modifying at least one region of the nonwoven fabric so as to have an altered level of light transmittance by printing on said nonwoven to occlude light transmission therethrough; forming a tube from said nonwoven fabric by joining together of edge portions thereof; cutting said tube to a selected length to form a protective cover; and positioning said protective cover generally about an agricultural product to protect the product from dust and/or insects.

Claim 24 (previously presented). A method of protecting agricultural products in accordance with claim 23, wherein:

said of forming a tube includes joining edge portions of said piece of nonwoven fabric by at least one of heat bonding, adhesive bonding, and sewing.

Claim 25 (cancelled).

Claim 26 (cancelled).